

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 00729 111105Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-07 EB-07 SAJ-01 COME-00 FAA-00

DOT-00 /096 W

-----111113Z 003080 /22

R 111040Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 820

INFO AMCONGEN HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 0729

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, EAIR, LA, TH

SUBJ: LAO-THAI RELATIONS

REF: A) VIENTIANE 27 B) VIENTIANE 4

SUMMARY: LAOS AND THAILAND CONTINUE THE GAME OF EXCHANGING  
PROTEST NOTES, AND PROGRESS IN AVIATION RELATIONS MAY BE IN  
SIGHT. END SUMMARY.

1. LAO NOTE PROTESTING THAI BORDER "PROVOCATIONS" (REF A)  
HAS RECEIVED NO PUBLICITY IN THAILAND. MFA OFFICIAL TOLD  
EMBOFFS JAN 10 THAT LAO ACTION IS OBVIOUSLY A "REPLY" TO  
SEVERAL (SO FAR UNPUBLICIZED) THAI PROTESTS RECENTLY DELIVERED  
TO PDRL CONCERNING SHOOTINGS ON THE MEKONG AND THE LIKE.  
(BANGKOK PRESS REPORTS THAT A THAI HELPING LAO REFUGEES ESCAPE  
WAS SHOT AND KILLED ON THE MEKONG JAN 5). MFA OFFICIAL  
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PREDICTED THAT EXCHANGE OF PROTESTS BETWEEN THAILAND AND  
LAOS CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE WELL INTO THE FUTURE. WE  
DO NOT KNOW TO WHAT EXTENT LAO COMPLAINTS TRANSMITTED REF B  
AND PREVIOUS ARE WARRANTED.

2. MFA SOURCE CONFIRMED ANOTHER PRESS REPORT (AND PREVIOUS  
VIENTIANE REPORTING) THAT LAOS HAS ASKED FOR RESUMPTION OF

LAO COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS INTO THAILAND, THIS TIME USING SOVIET PLANES AND PILOTS. HE SAID THERE IS NO OBJECTION TO THE FLIGHTS, WHICH HE EXPECTS TO BEGIN VERY SOON. WE UNDERSTAND FROM MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS, HOWEVER, THAT LAO HAVE NOT MADE FORMAL REQUEST TO RTG AND THAT DISCUSSIONS TO DATE HAVE BEEN ON AIRLINE TO AIRLINE BASIS.

3. MFA OFFICIAL ALSO INDICATED THAT MFA UNDERSECRETARY WONG PHONNIKON WILL SOON TRAVEL TO VINETIANE AS HEAD OF THAI DELEGATION TO DISCUSS OVERFLIGHTS (COMPOSITION OF DELEGATION IS CURRENTLY BEING DECIDED.) HE WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT TALKS WILL GO WELL, AS WILL SUBSEQUENT, SIMILAR TALKS IN HANOI, AS THE SRV IS INCREASINGLY DESIROUS OF OBTAINING THE LUCRATIVE OVERFLIGHT FEES. THIS LONG-TIME HAND IN DEALING WITH INDOCHINA PREDICTED THAT AGREEMENT ON COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS IN HANOI WOULD OPEN THE DOOR TO OTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN RTG-SRV RELATIONS.  
WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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